A CHARACTER OF ENGLAND,

As it was lately preſented in a Letter, to a Noble Man of *FRANCE.*

LONDON:

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1659.

TO THE READER.

WHen I firſt chanced upon this ſevere piece and had read it in the Language it was ſent me, I was ſo much concern'd with the honour

To the

of our Country, that it was my reſolution to ſuppreſs the publication of our ſhame, as conceiving it an act of great inhumanity; But upon ſecond, and more impartialthoughts, I have been tempted to make it

ſpeak

ſpeak Engliſh, and give it liberty, not to reproach, but to inſtruct our Nation; remembring what the Wiſeman hath ſaid, *Open rebuke is better than ſecret Love.* Prov. 27.5. The truth is, I cannot ſay but the particulars

culars, are moſt of them, very home; and which we may no way evade, without acknowledging, at leaſt, that the Gentleman (who ever he were) made notable uſe of his time, but beſt of all, by ſetting upon an effectuall

ctuall redreſſe of what is amiſs. And though *I* doubt not, but one might eaſily retort in as many inſtances, upon defects as great (if not greater) of that Nation; (for he that finds fault, had need be perfect) yet

yet were it then fitteſt to do it, and to revenge this charitable office, when we ſhall have firſt reformed our ſelves.

Farewell.

A CHARACTER OF ENGLAND, &c.

My Lord,

YOu command me to give you minute account of what I obſerved, and how I paſſed that little time which I lately ſpent in *England*; a Country, whoſe *Character* you ſo greatly deſire to be informed

m'd of, in a conjuncture (as you rightly deduce) of ſo ſtrange viciſſitude, and wonderful alterations; And to whom, my *Lord*, ſhould I more readily ſubmit? Firſt, encouraged to make this excurſion by your *L^d.* as who had formerly beheld, and ſo much admir'd the ſplendor and magnificence of this *Court*, and *Kingdom* in its greateſt *Acme* and luſtre. But, my *Lord*, I cannot imagine, that you ſhould eſteeme me either of years, or capacity to inform *You*, whoſe judgement is ſo mature, and correſpondence ſo univerſall,

verſall, as that there is nothing which can eſcape your cognizance, not onely in that *Iſland*, but in all the world beſides. But ſince you oblige me not to dip into the tranſactions of State, the effects of Providence, Time, Notices of a ſuperiour Orbe, and in which you cannot be inſtructed by ſo weak an inſtrument as your Servant; and demand onely the little *Remarkes* of my haſty, and deſultory *Peregrination*; though I cannot pretend to improve your *Lordſhips* knowledge, yet I may hope to give it diverſion,

verſion, and an *Eſſay* of my Obedience.

It muſt be avowed that *England* is a ſweet, and fertill Country.

Terra potêns armis, atque ubere gleba:

That the Fields, the Hills, and the Vallies are perpetually clad with a glorious, and agreeable verdure; that her proviſions are plentifull; her ſtaples important; and her intereſt very conſiderable; not omitting the moſt beautifull *Ladies*, I had almoſt ſaid, of the world, but for a juſt reſpect due to the illuſtrious *Circles* of our *Court*,

Court, where the beauties of converſation, ſo far tranſcend the tinctures of Lillies and Roſes. But theſe, my *Lord*, are not the *Memoires* which you demand; I will therefore haſten to my *Poſt*.

After a ſhort paſſage from *Calais*, we came on ſhore at *Dover*, where the people of the Town entertain'd us with ſuch ſuſpicious, and forbidding countenances, whiſpering, and ſtiff poſtures, that I ſhould never have believed ſo great a difference in the addreſſes of two Nations, could have been produced by

by ſo ſhort a traje&tion, and in a Port continually accuſtom'd to the faces of ſtrangers, had not the contrary humours of our contiguous neighbours, the *Spaniards*, made it poſſible, in ſo many pleaſant inſtances. But I was amazed, when we had taken *Poſt*, and ſcarce out of the *Village*, at the acclamations of the *Boys*, running after, and affrighting our horſes, hooting, and crying out, *French Dogs*, *French Dogs*, *a Mounſer*, *Mounſer*! by a particular expreſſion of welcome, which other people would interpret deriſion;

riſion; But in this Triumph (though ſomewhat late e're we ſet out of *Dover*) we attain'd as far as *Rocheſter* the firſt night, where, how new a thing it appeared to me, to ſee my confident *Hoſt* ſet him down cheek by joul by me, belching, and puffing *Tabacco* in my face, you may eaſily imagine; till I afterwards found it to be the uſuall ſtile of this Country; and that the *Gentlemen*, who logde at their *Inns*, entertain themſelves in their company, and are much pleas'd with their impertinencies: Arriv'd at the

Me-

Metropolis of civility, *London*, we put our ſelves in *Coach* with ſome perſons of quality, who came to conduct us to our Lodging; but neither was this paſſage without honours done to us, the kennel dirt, ſquibs, roots and rams-hornes being favours which were frequently caſt at us by the children, and apprentiſes without reproofe; civilities, that in *Paris*, a *Gentleman* as ſeldome meets withall, as with the conteſts of *Carmen*, who in this Town domineer in the ſtreets, o're-thow the *Hell-Carts* (for ſo they name the

the *Coaches*) curſing, and reviling at the *Nobles*: You would imagine your ſelf amongſt a *Legion* of *Devils*, and in the ſuburbs of *Hell*. I have greatly wondred at the remiſneſs of the *Magiſtrate*, and the temper of the *Gentlemen*, and that the *Citizens*, who ſubſiſt onely upon them, ſhould permit ſo great a diſorder, rather joyning in the affronts, than at all chaſtizing the inhumanity: But theſe are the naturall effects of purity, popular Libertiniſm, and Inſulary manners.

I find, as you told me, my *Lord*,

Lord, *London* to be a Town ſo nobly Situated, and upon ſuch a River, as *Europe* certainly ſhews not a more uſefull and agreeable; but withall this, a *City* conſiſting of a wooden, northern, and inartificiall congeſtion of Houſes; ſome of the principall ſtreets ſo narrovv, as there is nothing more deformed, and unlike, than the proſpect of it at a diſtance, and its *aſymmitry* vvithin the Walls. Their *Fountains*, vvhich are the pride and grace of our ſtreets, and plentifully ſupplyed in this *City*, are here immur'd,

to

to ſecure the vvaters from, I know not vvhat, impurities : but, certainly, it do's greatly detract from the beauty of the *Carfours*, and intercepts the vievv.

Amongſt the peices of *modern Architecture*, I have never obſerv'd above tvvo, which were remarkable in this vaſt *City*: The *Portico* of the Church of S. *Pauls*, and the Banqueting houſe at *White-hall*, of vvhich I remember to have heard your *Lordſhip* ſpeak : but you would be amaz'd at the *genious* of this age, that ſhould ſuffer this goodly and venerable fa brick,

brick, to be built about, and converted into raskally *Ware-Houſes*, and ſo ſordidly obſcur'd and defac'd, that an argument of greater avarice, malice, meanneſs and deformity of minde cannot poſſibly be expreſſed: Nothing here of Ornament, nothing of magnificence, no publique and honourable works, ſuch as render our *Paris*, and other *Cities* of *France*, renowned, and viſited by all the World; emulating even *Italy* her ſelf, for her *Palaces*, uniform and conſpicuous Structures: But O! how lothſome a *Golgotha* is this

this *Paul's*! I aſure your *Lordſhip*, that *England* is the ſole ſpot in all the world, where, amongſt *Chriſtians*, their *Churches* are made jakes, and ſtables, markets and Tipling-houſes; and where there were more need of *Scorpions*, than *Thongs*, to drive out the *Publicanes* and *Money-Changers*: In ſum, where theſe excellent uſes, are pretended to be the markes of Piety and Reformation.

I had ſometimes the curioſity to viſite the ſeveral *Worſhips* of theſe *Equivocal Chriſtians*, and *Enthuſiaſts*: But I extreamly wondred

wondred to find thoſe whom they call *Presbyterians*, and that would imitate us of the *Religion* in *France*, and *Geneva*, to have their *Diſcipline* ſo confuſed and different. In this *remarke*, my Lord, to be ſomewhat more particular, you will not be diſpleas'd; becauſe it was a thing you ſo much recommended to my eſpeciall notice. *Form*, they obſerve none: They pray and read without method, and indeed, wtithout reverence or devotion: I have beheld a whole Congregation ſit on their -- with their hats on, at the reading of the

Pſalms, and yet bare-headed when they ſing them. In divers places they read not the *Scriptures* at all; but up into the *Pulpit*, where they make an inſipid, tedious and immethodical *Prayer*, in Phraſes and a tone ſo affected and myſterious, that they give it the name of *Canting*, a tearm by which they do uſually expreſse the *gibbriſh* of Beggars and Vagabonds; after which, there follows the *Sermon* (which for the moſt part, they read out of a book) conſiſting (like their prayers) of *ſpeculative* and *abſtracted* no-

tions, and things, which, nor the people nor themſelves well underſtand: But theſe they extend to an extraordinary length, and *Phariſaical* repetitions: and well they may: for their *Chaires* are lined with prodigious Velvet cuſhions, upon which they loll, and talke, 'till almoſt they ſleep; I am ſure, 'till their Auditors do.

The *Miniſter* uſes no habit of diſtinction, or gravity; but ſteps up in *querpo*; and when he laies by his *cloak* (as I have obſerved ſome of them) he has the action rather of a *Thraſher*, than

a *Divine*; this they call *taking pains*, and indeed it is ſo. to thoſe that hear them: But, thus they have now encouraged every pert *Mechanick* to invade, affront and out-preach them; and having uncancell'd all manner of decency, proſtituted both their perſons and function to uſurpation, penury and deriſion. You may well imagine by the manners of the people, and their prodigious opinions, that there is no *Catechiſm*, nor *Sacraments* duely adminiſtred: *The Religion of* England *is Preaching, and ſitting ſtil*

on Sundaies. How they Baptitſe I know not, becauſe the Congregation is diſmiſſed, and they agree in no form; and for the other *Sacraments*, no man gives, or receives alike; and it is ſo ſeldome done *in remembrance of Chriſt*, that in ſome Pariſhes, I have heard, they can hardly remember when they received it. Generally I have no where ſeen goodlier out-ſides of *Churches*, what they are within I cannot ſo well ſay, for their *Temples* are as faſt as was that of *Janus* after the firſt *Punick-war*, un-

unleſs it be upon *Sundaies*, when they blow the brazen Trumpets of Sedition, not the ſilver-ones of the *Tabernacle*. I have diſcourſed with ſome concerning this ſealing up their Churches in the week-daies; They are ready to retorte upon us in *France*, not conſidering that our Churches are ſolitary, and in ſome places many leagues diſtant from the Towns, that we are under a perſecution, & ſo neceſſitated to omit the publique Morning and Evening *Sacrifie*, which I remember to have heard ſeverall of

our *Divines* deplore the defect of; as of many other decencies, which, *here*, they can have no pretence againſt: But ſuch of their Churches as I have frequented, were dammed up with *Pues*, every three or four of the Inhabitants, ſitting in narrow *Pounds* or *Pulpits* by themſelves; for they are all turn'd *Preachers* now. In ſhort, there is nothing more unlike to our reformed Churches in *France*, and I think, in all *Europe* beſide; the apprehenſion of *Popery*, or fondneſs to their own imaginations, having carryed them ſo

ſo far to the other extream, that they have now loſt all moderation, and decorum; And I have been herein, my Lord the more induſtrious to inform my ſelf of each particular; becauſe it ſeemes yet to be the moſt publique *Religion* of the State. Some of their own party, I have heard deplore this confuſion, but certainly, they themſelves gave the firſt occaſion to theſe monſtrous Liberties, by a rigid, and uncharitable diſcipline; primarily (it ſeemes) introduced by the *Scots*, and ſo refined upon by theſe; as there are few

or none that will ſubmit to the Tyrany; but every one takes his own courſe, and has protection for it. Some well natur'd abuſed men I have met withall amongſt them; but, if I miſtake not, for the greater ingredient, ambitious, ignorant, overweening, ſower and uncharitable, *ne quid aſperius*, combining with the intereſt of the times, and, who to render themſelves powerfull, have in compliances with the ſpiritual pride of the *Mechanicks* and Corporations, conniv'd at thoſe many, and prodigious *Schiſmes* and

Hereſies

Hereſies which are now ſpawn'd under them in ſuch numbers, as give terrour to the State. I omit to tell your Lord-ſhip that few take notice of the *Lords Prayer*; it is eſteemed a kind of weakneſs to uſe it, but the *Creed* and the *Decalogue* are not once heard of in their Congregations; This is milke for *Babes*, and theſe are all *Giants*. They do frequently ſolemnize their late *National* deliverances, and ſome daies of *Chriſtian blood ſhed* with all poſſible ſeverity: But they think it groſs *Idolatry* to joyn with the whole

Chriſtian Church of all profeſſions under heaven, in the *Anniverſaries* of our B. *Saviours Incarnation*, *Paſſion*, *Reſurrection*, and the deſcent of the *Holy Ghoſt*, ſpirituall, eternall and never to be forgotten mercies. Would your *Lordſhip* believe that this madneſs ſhould advance ſo far, as to diſturbe the *French-Church* there, which you know, do's in all places obſerve thoſe ſignall deliverances & bleſſings, both by *Preaching*, *Prayer*, *Sacraments* and exhortations appoſite to the occaſion? What think you will be the

iſſue

iſſue of this goodly Reformation? I could tell you of the myſterious *Claſſis*, of the *Tryers*; their ridiculous, inſidiary and preſumptuous queſtions; their unheard of animoſities againſt their Brethern of the *Church* of *England*, ſuffering themſelves to be rather torn in ſunder by the *Sectaries*, *Demetrius* and the *Crafts-men*, whilſt they contend about trifles and meer ſhadows.

Concerning the *Independents*, all I can learn is; They are a refined, and apoſtate ſort of *Presbyters*; or, rather ſuch as renounce all

all ordination, as who having preached promiſcuously to the people, & cuningly enſnar'd a ſelect number of rich, & ignorant *Proſelytes*, ſeparate themſelves into *Conventicles*, which they name *Congregations*. There is nothing do's more reſemble this *Sect*, than our Rom. *Miſsionaries* ſent out *in partibus Infidelium*; for they take all other *Chriſtians* to be *Heathen*. Theſe are thoſe great pretenders to the *Spirit*, into whoſe party do's the vileſt perſon living, no ſooner adſcribe himſelf, but he is, *ipſo facto*, dub'd a *Saint*, hallow'd,

and

and dear to *God*. Theſe, are the confidents, who can deſign the *minute*, the *place* and the *means* of their converſion : a *Schiſm* full of ſpiritual-diſdain, incharity and high impoſture, if any ſuch there be on earth : But every alteration of *State*, deſtroying the intereſt of the verſatile contrivers, they are as ready to *Tranſmigrate* into the next more thriving Fraternity, as the *Souls* of *Pythagoras* into beaſts, and may then perhaps, aſſume ſome other *Title*. This is a ſad, but ſerious truth, and no little menaces the common *Chriſtianity*

ſtianty, unleſs timely prevented. But Sr. I will no longer tire your patience with theſe *Monſters* (the ſubject of every contemptuous *Pamphlet*) then with the madneſs of the *Anabaptiſts*, *Quakers*, *fift Monarchy-men* and a *Cento* of unheard of *Hereſies* beſides, which, at preſent, deform the once renowned *Church of England*; and approach ſo little the pretended *Reformation*, which we in *France* have been made to believe, that there is nothing more heavenly wide. But I have dwelt too long on this *remarke*, I return to

to where I digreſſed; for I was veiwing the *Buildings*, which are as deformed as the minds & confuſions of the people, for if a whole ſtreet be fired (an accident not unfrequent in this wooden City) the *Magiſtrate* has either no power, or no care to make them build with any uniformity, which renders it, though a large, yet, a very ugly Town, peſtred with *Hackney-coaches*, and inſolent *Carre men*, *Shops* and *Taverns*, *Noyſe*, and ſuch a cloud of *Sea-coal*, as if there be a reſemblance of *Hell* upon Earth, it is in this

Vulcano

Vulcano in a foggy day: This peſtilent *Smoak*, which corrodes the very yron, and ſpoils all the moveables, leaving a ſoot upon all things that it lights; and ſo fatally ſeizing on the *Lungs* of the Inhabitants, that the *Cough*, and the *Conſumption* ſpare no man. I have been in a ſpacious *Church* where I could not diſcern the *Miniſter* for the *Smoak*; nor hear him for the peoples barking. There is within this City, and in all the Towns of *England* (which I have paſſed through) ſo prodigious a number of houſes

houſes where they ſell a certain drink called *Ale*, that I think a good halfe of the *Inhabitants* may be denominated *Ale houſe-keepers*: Theſe are a meaner ſort of *Cabarets*: But what is moſt deplorable, where the *Gentlemen* ſit, and ſpend much of their time; drinking of a muddy kinde of *Beverage*, and *Tobacco*, which has univerſally beſotted the *Nation*, and at which (I hear) they have conſumed many noble Eſtates. As for other *Taverns*, *London* is compos'd of them, where they drink *Spaniſh Wines*, and other ſophi-

ſophiſticated Liquors to that fury and imtemperance, as has often amaz'd me to conſider it: But thus ſome mean fellow, the *Drawer*, arrives to an Eſtate, ſome of them having built fair houſes, and purchaſed thoſe *Gentlemen* out of their poſſeſſions, who have ruined themſelves by that baſe and diſhonourable vice of ebriety: And that nothing may be wanting to the height of luxury and impiety of this *Abomination*, they have tranſlated the *Organs* out of the *Churches*, to ſet them up in *Taverns*, chanting their *Dithyrambicks*

rambicks, and beſtiall *Bacchanalias* to the tune of thoſe *Inſtruments*, which were wont to aſſiſt them in the clebration of *God*'s Praiſes, and regulate the voices of the worſt ſingers in the World, which are the *Engliſh* in their *Churches* at preſent: I cannot but commend the *Reformed* in *Holland*, who ſtill retain their *Organs* in the Churches, and make uſe of them at the *Pſalms*, without any opinion of ſuperſtition; and I once remember to have heard the famous *Diodati* wiſh might be introduced even at *Geneva*. A great errour

errour undoubtedly in thoſe who ſit at the helme, to permit this Scandal; to ſuffer ſo many of theſe *Taverns* and occaſions of intemperance, ſuch Leaches and Vipers; to gratifie ſo ſordid and baſe a ſort of People with the ſpoils of honeſt, and well natur'd men. Your L. will not believe me that the *Ladies* of greateſt quality, ſuffer themſelves to be treated in one of theſe *Taverns*, where a *Curteſan* in other *Cities* would ſcarcely vouchſafe to be entertain'd: but you will be more aſtoniſh't when I ſhall aſſure you, that they drink their

crowned

crowned Cups roundly, ſtrain healths through their *Smocks*, daunce after the Fiddle, kiſs freely, and tearm it an honourable *Treat*. But all this my experience, particular addreſs, and habitudes with the greateſt of that Nation has aſſur'd me, that it is not the paſs time onely of the inferiour and *meretricious* ſort; ſince I find it a cheif ſuppletory at all their entertain ments, to drink exceſſively, and that in their own houſes, before the *Ladies*, and the *Lacquaes*: It is the afternones diverſion; whether for want of better to employ

employ the time, or affection to the drink, I know not: But I have found ſome perſons of quality, whom one could not ſafely viſite after dinner, without reſolving to undergo this *Drink-ordel*, and endure the *Queſtion*: It is eſteem'd a piece of wit, to make a man drunk, for which ſome ſwilling inſipid *client* or *Congiarie*, is a frequent and conſtant *adjutant*. Your *L:* may hence well imagine, how

In France *they give a certain torture to Malefactors, by pouring ſuch a quantity of water into their mouths which they call giving the queſtion, and I by Traſlation* Drink-Ordell.

how heavy, dull and inſig-
ficant the converſation is;
loud, querelous and imper-
tinent. I ſhall relate a ſtory
that once happened in my
preſence at a *Gentlemans*
houſe in the *Country*, where
there was much company
and feaſting. I fortun'd to
come at dinner-time, and
after the cloth was taken
away (as the manner is) they
fell to their laudable exer-
ciſe: But I unacquainted
then with their cuſtome,
was lead up into a *with-
drawing Room*, where I had
the permiſſion (with a noble
perſon who introduced
me) to ſit and converſe
with

with the *Ladies*, who were thither retired; the *Gentle.* of the houſe leaving us in the mean time, to entertain his freinds below: But you may imagine how ſtrangely I was aſtoniſh'd, to ſee within an hour after, one of the company that had dined there, entering into the Room all bloody, and diſorder'd, to fetch a ſvvord vvhich lay in one of the vvindovves, and three or four of his companions, vvhom the fumes of the Wine had inſpirited, purſuing, and dragging him by the hair, till in this confuſion, one of their Spurs engaged

engaged into a Carpet, upon which ſtood a very fair *Looking-Glaſs*, and two noble pieces of *Porſelain*, drew all to the ground, brake the *Glaſs* and the *Vaſas* in pieces; and all this on ſuch an inſtant, that the *Gentleman* and my ſelf, had much ado to reſcue the affrighted *Ladies* from ſuffering in the tumult; but at laſt we prevail'd, and brought them to tearms, the quarrel concerning an *Health* onely, which one of them would have ſhifted. I don't remember my Lord, ever to have known (or very

rarely) a *health* drank in *France*, no not the *Kings*; and if we ſay *A voſtre ſante Monſier*, it neither expects pledge, or ceremony. 'Tis here ſo the cuſtome to drink to every one at the *Table*, that by the time a *Gentleman* has done his duty to the whole company, he is ready to fall aſleep, whereas with us, we ſalute the whole *Table* with a ſingle glaſs onely. But, my Lord, was not this, imagine you, an admirable *Scene* and very extraordinary? I confeſs, the *Lady* of the houſe being much out of countenance at what

what had hapned, profered to excuſe this diſorder and I was as ready to receive it, till ſeveral encounters confirmed me, that they were but too frequent, and that there was a ſort of perfect *Debauchees*, who ſtile themſelves *Hectors*, that in their mad and unheard of *Revels*, pierce their veins to quaff their own *blood*, which ſome of them have drank to that exceſs, that they died of the intemperance: Theſe are a profeſſed *Atheiſtical* order of *Braves*, compos'd for the moſt of *Cadets*, who ſpending beyond their *penſions*,

to ſupply their extravagancies, practiſe now and then the high-way, where they ſometimes borrow that which they often repay at the *Gibbet*; an ignominious trade, unheard of amongſt our Gallant *Nobleſſe*; however fortune reduce them. But I know not whether I might not here match theſe valiant *Heroes* with an avow'd ſociety of *Ladies*, and ſome of them not of the meaneſt for birth (I even bluſh to recount it of that fair Sex) who boaſt of making all advantages at *play*, and are become ſo dextrous

dextrous at it, that ſeldome they make a ſitting, without deſign and booty: For there is here, my Lord, no ſuch thing as courtſhip after the decent mode of our *Circles*; for either being mingled in a room, the *Gentlemen* ſeparate from the converſation of the *Ladies*, to drink, as before I related; or elſe, to whiſper with one another at ſome corner or *Bay-window*, abandoning the *Ladies* to Goſhip by themſelves, which is a cuſtome ſo ſtrange to a *Gallant* of our *Nation*, as nothing appears more barbarous and un-

becoming; and this in effect must needs be the reason, that those beautifull Creatures can so little furnish, that they want assurance, address, and the charming discourse of our *Damoiseles*, which are faculties so shining, and agreeable in their Sex with us in *France*: and in truth, even the *Gentlemen* themselves, are greatly defective as to this particular, ill Courtiers, unplyant, morose and of vulgar address; generally, not so polished, free and serene, as is universally found even amongst the most inferiour of our *Nation*.

tion. I am not ignorant that they impute it to a certian levity in us; but it is a miſtake in them, and that becauſe they ſo hardly reform it, without ſome ridiculous affectation, as is conſpicuous in their ſeveral *Modes* and *Dreſſes*, which they vary ten times for our once; every one affecting ſomething particular; as having no ſtandard at *Court*, which ſhould give *Lawes*, and do countenance to the faſhion. The *Women* are much affected with *Gaudry*, there being nothing more frequent, than to ſee an antient *Ladie*

wear colours, a thing which neither young, nor old of either Sex do with us, ſave in the Conntry, and the *Camp*; but *Widows* at no time. And yet reprove they us for theſe exorbitances; but I have often diſputed the caſe: Either we do ill, or well; if ill, why then do they *ape us*? if well, why do they reproach us? The truth is, they have no moderation, and are neither ſo lucky, nor frugal as our *Ladies* are in theſe ſumptuary expenſes; and whereof the *Magiſtrate* takes ſo little cogniſance, that it is not

not an eaſie matter to diſtinguiſh the *Lady* from the *Chamber-Maid*; Servants being ſuffered in this brave Country, to go clad like their Miſtriſſes, a thing neither decent, nor permitted in *France*, where they may wear neither lace, nor ſilke.

I may not forget to acacquaint your Lordſhip. that though the *Ladies* and the *Gentlemen* are ſo ſhy of one another; yet when once they grow acquainted, it paſſes into expreſſions, and compellations extreamly new to our uſages, and the ſtile of our Country

Country: Do but imagine how it would become our *Ladys* to call *Mons.* N. *Jack.* N. what more frequent than this? *Tom* P. was here to day; I went yesterday to the * *Cours* with *Will.* R. and *Harry* M. treated me at such a *Taverne*: Theſe are the particular *idioms*, and graceſull confidences now in uſe; introduced I conceive at firſt by ſome *Camerades* one with another; but it is mean and rude, and ſuch as our *Lacquais* would almoſt diſdain in *Paris*, where

* *A* place neer *Paris*, like *Hide*-parke.

where I have often obſerved two *Chimny-Sweepers* accoſt one another, in better forms, and civiller addreſſes. But to be confident and civill, is not a thing ſo eaſily underſtood, and ſeems a peculiar talent of our Nation.

However the *Ladies* are not more obliging, & familiar than the *L.* are difficult & inacceſſible; for though by reaſon of my Birth, and quality, my recommendations and addreſſes, I found ſome tolerable reception amongſt them; yet I obſerv'd, that they kept at ſuch a ſurly diſtance with the

the *Gentlemen*, even of Family, that me thought I never beheld a ruder converſation; eſpecially, when comparing their parts, and educations, I found them generally ſo much inferiour, as if a *Lord* were indeed other than a *Gentleman*; or a *Gentleman* not a fit companion for a *King*: But this muſt needs be the reſult of an ill, and haughty inſtitution, and for that moſt of theſe great perſons are in their minority, and the age wherein they ſhould be furniſhed with the nobleſt impreſſions,

taught

taught onely to converſe with their ſervants, ſome *Sycophants*, and under the regiment of a *Pedant*, which imprints that ſcornfulneſs and folly, and fits them with no better forms when they ſhould produce themſelves, and give teſtimony to others as well of their ſuperiority in vertue, as in birth and dignity. But this is my Lord a particular, which I have heard you often complain of, and which we do frequently take notice of at their coming abroad into our Country; where for want of addreſs, and fit perſons to introduce

introduce them, they ſeldome return more refined than they came; elſe they could not but have obſerved, that there is nothing which makes the diſtinction of *Nobles* in *France*, but the *Title*, and that his *Majeſty* himſelf do's them the honours, which here they uſurpe upon their equalls: But, my Lord, they are ſufficiently puniſhed for it in *England*: where, to me they appear ſo degenerate, for want of this humility and free converſation, by which, and their other vices, they grow now ſo much deſpiſed, that the

Gentlemen

Gentlemen need ſeek no revenge; for though (as I told you) the *Gentlemen* are moſt of them very intemperate, yet the *Proverb* goes, *As drunk as a Lord.* But, my Lord, as there is no rule ſo generall, but it do's admit of exceptions, ſo ſhould I give my own experience, as well as your Lordſhips the contradiction, to make the cenſure univerſal; there being even amongſt *theſe*, ſome *few*, and in particlar my L. *N.* and *N.* *&c.* whom I eſteeme to be very noble, and accompliſhed perſons, as who have learned (by the

the good fortune of a better education) how to value the converſations of worthy men, and who indeed, do ſufficiently verifie all thoſe *attributes* which are due to their qualities, and therefore whom this *Paragraph* doth no waies concern.

Nor ſhould I be leſs ſevere and unjuſt, totally to exclude even ſome of the *Ladies* from the advantages of this *Period*, whoſe perfections & vertues, claim an equal right to all that I have here ſpoken, out of a due reſentiment of their merites and excellencies.

It

It was frequently, during the laſt *Winter*, that I was carried to their *Balls*, as where indeed I hoped to ſee what ſhould appear the moſt of gallant and ſplendid amongſt the *Ladies*, nor really did my expectations deceive me; for there was a confluence of very great beauties, to which the gliſtring of their jewells, (which upon theſe occaſions they want not) could add nothing ſave their *weight*; the various habites being ſo particular, as if by ſome ſtrange *Inchantment*, they had encountred, and come out of

ſeveral

ſeveral Nations: But I was aſtoniſhed to ſee, when they were ready to move, that a *Dancing-Maſter* had the boldneſs to take forth the greateſt *Ladies*, and they again the *Dancing-Maſter*, who performed the moſt part of the *Ball*, whilſt the *Gentlemen*, that were preſent, were the leaſt concerned, and ſtood looking on; ſo as it appear'd to me, more like the *Farce* of a *Comedy* at the * *Hoſtel de Bourgogne*, than a *Ball of the Nobleſſe*, and in truth, their meaſures, when

* The play-houſe, at *Paris*, as once ours at *Black-Friers*.

when any of them were taken out, made me ſomewhat aſhamed to lead a *Lady* who did me the honour, for fear (though my skill be very vulgar in that exerciſe) they ſhould have taken *me* for a *Dancing Maſter*, as who had, happly imploy'd my youth ſo ill, as to have ſome advantage of the reſt in that faculty. This favour is particular to the *Dancing-Maſters* in this Country; and reaſon good; for they ride in their *Coaches*, and have ſuch ample *Salaries*, as maintains both their prodigality, and an inſolence,

lence that were inſupportable in *France*, where theſe trifling fellows do better know themſelves, are worſe payed, and leſs preſumptuous. Nay, ſo remiſs are the *Ladies* of their reſpect in this inſtance, that they not onely entertain all this; but permit themſelves likewiſe to be invited, and often honour theſe impertinent *Fantaſticks*, by receiving the *Ball* at their petty *Schools*.

When this Ceremony was ended, ſome of the *Gallants* fell to other *recreations*, and as far as I underſtood, were offering at

at that innocent, yet ſalt and pleaſant diverſion, which in *France* are called *Ralliarie*; but ſo far were they from maintaining it within the decencies, and Laws, which both in *that*, and our *Characters* we obſerve; that in a little time, they fell ſo upon perſonal abuſing one another, that there was much ado to preſerve the peace, and as I heard, it was the next day, the product of a quarel, and a *Duell*.

A wittie, & a civil deſcription of one anothers perſons

I did frequently in the ſpring, accompany my

Lord

Lord N. into a field near the Town, which they call *Hide-Parke*; the place not unpleaſant, & which they uſe, as our *Course*; but with nothing that order, equipage and ſplendor, being ſuch an aſſembly of wretched *jades*, and *Hackney-Coaches*, as next a Regiment of *Carre-men*, there is nothing approaches the reſemblance. This *Parke* was (it ſeemes) uſed by the late *King*, and *Nobility* for the freſhneſs of the Air, and the goodly proſpect: but it is that which now (beſides all other *exciſes*) they *pay* for here

in

in *England*, though it be free in all the World beſide; every *Coach* and *Horſe* which enters, buying his mouthfull, and permiſſion of the *Publicane*, who has purchaſed it, for which the entrance is guarded with *Porters* and long Staves.

The manner is, as the company returns, to alight at the *Spring Garden*, ſo called, and in order to the *Parke*, as our *Thuilleries* is to the *Courſe*; the incloſure not diſagreable, for the ſollemneſs of the Grove, the warbling of the Birds, and as it opens into the ſpacious

ſpacious Walks at St. *James's*: but the company walk in it at ſuch a rate, as you would think all the *Ladies* were ſo many *Atalanta's*, contending with their *Wooers*; and my Lord there was no appearance that I ſhould prove the *Hippomenes*, who could with very much ado, keep pace with them: But as faſt as they run, they ſtay there ſo long, as if they wanted not time to finiſh the *Race*; for it is uſuall *here*, to find ſome of the young company till midnight; and the Thickets of the *Garden* ſeeme to be con-

contrived to all advantages of *Gallantry*, after they have been refreſhed with the *Collation*, which is here ſeldome omitted, at a certaine *Cabaret* in the middle of this *Paradiſe*; where the forbidden fruites are certaine trifling *Tartes*, *Neates-tongues*, *Salacious meates*, and bad *Rhenniſh*; for which the *Gallants* pay Sauce, as indeed they do at all ſuch houſes throughout *England*; for they think it a piece of frugality beneath them, to bargaine, or accompt for what they eat in any place however unreaſonably impos'd upon;

But thus, thoſe meane fellowes are (as I told your Lordſhip) inriched; begger, and inſult over the *Gentlemen*. I am aſſur'd that this particular *Hoſt*, has purchaſed, within few years, 5000 *livers* of annuall rent; and well he may, at the rates theſe *Prodigalls* pay; whereas, in *France*, a *Gentleman* eſteemes it no diminution to mannage even theſe expences with reaſon. But my Lord, it is now late, and time to quit this Garden, and to tell you, that I think there is not a more illuſtrious ſight

500. per. Ann of our monies:

in

in the World, than to meet the *Divinities* of our *Court* marching up the long walk in the *Thuilleries*, where the pace is ſo ſtayed and grave, the encounters ſo regular and decent; and where thoſe who feed their eyes with their beauties, and their eares with the charming *accents* of their diſcourſe and voyces, need not thoſe refreſhments of the other *Senſes*, finding them all to be ſo taken up with theſe.

I was curious before my returne, and when I had conquer'd ſome difficulties of the *language*, and

Cuſtomes, to viſite their Judicatures; where, beſides that few of their *Gown-men* are to be compared to thoſe of the *Robe* in our *Palais* for elocution, and the talent of well ſpeaking; ſo neither do they at all exceed them in the formes & colours of their *Pleading*; but (as before I ſpake of their *Ralliary*) ſupply the defects of the *cauſe*, with flat, inſipide & groſſely abuſing one another; a thing ſo trifling, and misbecoming the gravity of *Courts* (where the *Lawyers* take liberty to jeaſt

where they plead as at Weſtminſter.

jeaſt mens eſtates away, & yet avow their avarice) that I have much admired at the temper of the Judges, and their remiſſeneſſe in reforming it: There was a young Perſon, whom at my being there, was very much cried up for his abillities, and in whom I did not obſerve that uſuall intemperance, which I but now reproved; and certainly, it ſprings either for want of thoſe abillities which the *Municipall* Lawes of this *Nation* (conſiſting moſt of them in *Cuſtomes* like our *Normandy*, whoſe antient *dialect*

their books yet retaine) are ſo little apt to furniſh; or the defect of thoſe advantages, which the more polliſhed *Sciences* afford us without which, it is impoſſible to be good Orators, & to maintaine their diſcourſes, without diverſion to that vile impertinency.

But what is infinitly agreable in this Country, are the *Bowling-Greens*, and the *Races*, which are really ſuch pleaſures abroad, as we have nothing approaches them in *France*, and which I was extreamly delighted in; but the *Verdure* of the Country, and deli-

delicious *Downes* it is, which renders them this prætheminence, and indeed, it is to be valued, and doth in my esteeme, very much commute for the lesse benignity of that glorious *Planet*, which ripens our *Vines* in *France*.

The *Horses*, and the *Doggs*, their incomparable *Parkes* of *Fallow-deer*, and lawes of *Chase*, I extreamly approve of; but upon other occasions, all *Englishmen* ride so fast upon the *Road*, that you would swear there were some enemy in the *ariere*; and all the *Coaches* in *London*,

ſeeme to drive for *Mid-wives*.

But what did much more afflict me, is their cerimony at *Table*, where every man is obliged to ſit tell all have done eating, however their appetites differ, and to ſee the formality of the *Voider*, which our *withdrawing-roomes* in *France* are made to prevent, and might ſo here, if they knew the uſe of them, to be, that every man may riſe when he has din'd, without the leaſt indecency, and leave the *Sewers* to their Office.

I have now but a word to adde,

add, and that is the tediouſneſſe of *Viſits*, which they make *here* ſo long, that it is a very tyranny to ſit to ſo little purpoſe: If the Perſons be of *Ladys* that are ſtrangers, it is to look upon each other, as if they had never ſeen any of their own *kind* before; and here indeed the *virtue* of their *Sex* is eminent; for they are as ſilent and fixt as *Statue's*; Or if they do talk, it is with cenſure, and ſufficient confidence: ſo difficult it is, to *Entertaine* with a grace, or to obſerve a mediocrity.

In Summe, my *Lord*, I

found ſo many *particulars* worthy of reproofe in all thoſe *Remarkes* which I have been able to make; That to render you a veritable account of *England*, as it is at preſent, I muſt pronounce, with the *Poet*.

Difficile eſt Satyram *non Scribere.* ——————

FINIS.